Benzinger, Immanuel

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Edgehill Princeton, N.J.
14 Mai 1915

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident

Ich möchte nicht versäumen, Ihnen mitzuteilen, dass ich vor einigen Tagen einen Ruf nach Meadville für Altes Testament & Religionsgeschichte angenommen habe.

Die Stimmung in Toronto ist ja wohl nach allem, was ich höre, eine solche dass auch für nächstes Jahr meine Rückkehr wohl gar nicht in Frage kommen kann, und so habe ich keinen Anstand genommen Ihrem

wohlgemeinten Rate zu folgen und u Meadowlake anzunehmen. Ob eine spätere Zukunft eine Wiederaufnahme meiner Beziehungen zu der Universität Toronto möglich machen und Ihrem Urteil raten erscheinen lassen wird, das ~~nun~~ entzieht sich natürlich meinem Urteil. Meine Stellung und mein Interesse an Toronto kennen Sie ja. Ich habe mit Freude von Dr McCurdy, den ich ab x zu sehe, gehört, dass Sie eine tüchtige Kraft für das Departement in Aussicht haben.

Wollen Sie, bitte entschuldigen, dass ich Ihnen deutsch schreibe, und darin keine „feindliche Handlungsweise" erblicken. Ich tat es nur, weil ich fürchtete, Ihn

Englisch nicht den ganz entsprechenden Ausdruck meiner Gedanken zu finden.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung und besten Grüssen in aufrichtiger Verehrung

Ihr ergebenster

J Benzinger

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Extracted from Vol XXV

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December 31st, 1914

Dear Dr. Benzinger:

I have just received your letter asking me to lay your resignation before the Board of Governors. Coming as it does from you on your own initiative and in view of the uncertainty as to the duration of the war I shall not ask you to withdraw it, though I deeply regret that the University is to lose your services. As you are aware, when the Board thought it expedient to place you on leave of absence for the rest of the session I entered into correspondence with some of the leading Universities and professional schools of the United States in the hope that I might effect an exchange with a scholar of Arabic and Oriental Archaeology, but unfortunately my efforts have been unsuccessful.

President Lowell of Harvard, President Hadley of Yale, Dean Mathews of Chicago, President Francis Brown of New York, President McKenzie of Hartford, and others, have answered in the lost cordial way possible, and would welcome you to do teaching, but unfortunately there are very few men qualified to undertake your work. Of those who are, most have their courses arranged with their students for the whole academic year, and in two cases the only possible exchange men are of German birth. You will be pleased to know that a well-known scholar of the University of Pennsylvania writes, "I beg to assure you that in common with all scholars I have the very highest opinion of Professor Benzinger's eminent scholarship".

On leaving this University it must be a satisfaction to you to be told that you have won the respect of your colleagues of the department in the various colleges and of those members of the staff who have got to know you. It must be no less gratifying to be assured by your students

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that your learning, teaching ability, and character have gained for you their confidence, no suggestion having excaped you during this testing crisis which was unsympathetic to their convictions loyal to the core as they are.

Your resignation will I am afraid cripple the work of this department, especially on its graduate side, one student who had come from India having already left to pursue his studies in Chicago.

This unfortunate event, however, is but one of the results of the terrible war into which our Empire has been forced on behalf of a higher humanity among the nations of the world. When we have won a satisfactory peace, we hope that a new era for civilisation will dawn and that through the Universities, homes of pure patriotism, the light of a culture will stream, which while British, Canadian and provincial will be coloured also with the brightest ideals of the wide moral and intellectual world.

I will transmit your resignation to the Board of Governors for their action.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 20th, 1915

Dr. H. Benzinger,

Toronto.

Dear Dr. Benzinger:

The Board of Governors in accepting your resignation granted you a sum of money equivalent to the amount of your salary until June 30, 1915. Their action was due both to the fact that you incurred heavy expenses in moving from Jerusalem to Toronto two years ago in order to assume the position which was offered you, and to your having resigned a permanent position on our staff owing to special circumstances without any other means of support at present in view.

Yours sincerely,

President.

February 17th, 1915

Professor Benzinger,

Fagehill, Princeton, N.J.

Dear Professor Benzinger:

Many thanks for your letter sending me a copy of the telegram that was received by Mr. Bryan, and also the letter from Mr. Curtis. Professor McCurdy has already told me about the cable message. I was not aware of the incident in connection with Mr. Musgrave. It was certainly very injudicious to bring it into the case. I do not think, however, unless there were some recrudescence of it we should be wise in referring to the matter again. I am sending you a copy of the letter from Professor Curtis, and will keep the original.

I hope that you have fitted into your new life at Princeton, and that you get regular work from Mr. Benzinger, and also that your son is progressing favourably.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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May 16th, 1915

Professor I. Benzinger,

Rosehill, Princeton, N.J.

My dear Professor Benzinger:

I have just received your letter and read it with a great deal of interest. I am glad that you have taken the position in Meadville, because I fear that it would be quite impossible for us to make any arrangement whereby you could come back next year. As you are probably aware it is Dr. Craig, formerly of Michigan, who is to do work for us next winter. He is a distinguished man, and we are fortunate in getting him. I hope that you will enjoy Meadville. I also hope that Mrs. Benzinger will be able to join you before very long, and that you have got good word from your son. The future is in such uncertainty that of course we cannot say anything at all as to developments. This week we close, three weeks earlier than usual in order to allow students to get away.

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Bern
Brunnadernstr. 30

September 9, 1914

Dear Sir,

As there is no direct post now from Germany to Canada, my friend, Dr. Benziger has asked me to communicate with you in his name. He wishes me to say that he has been doing his best to get back to Toronto for the beginning of the term but this seems impossible, he fears. No Germans can travel via England at present and the steamers from Rotterdam have been filled up long agobut he is hoping to get a berth for the beginning of October .
He begs most sincerely that you will kindly excuse this unforeseen delay and will wire to you before sailing from Rotterdam.

Yours truly

August Langmesser
Dr. phil.

September 25th, 1914

Dear Sir:

I have had a cable from Dr. Benzinger, who is head of our Department of Oriental Languages in the University of Toronto. It came from Rotterdam and states that he expects to arrive in Toronto about the fifth of October. Dr. Benzinger is a German by birth, I believe, and is a scholar of high distinction. He was living for ten years in Jerusalem before he came to Toronto.

I hope that there will be no difficulty in his being allowed to enter Canada to resume his work at the University. Will you kindly let me know whether there is any form that I should have to fill up for this purpose ?

Yours sincerely,

President.

January 5th, 1915

Professor Benzinger,

Toronto.

Dear Professor Benzinger:

I have just received your letter with regard to the payment of your salary to the end of June. I shall be very happy to lay it before the Board at its meeting on the 14th, and I have every reason to believe that they will act in accordance with your desires.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Form C.A. 1

GREAT NORTH WESTERN CABLEGRAM

GEO. D. PERRY, GENERAL MANAGER

Received at

3 N fn C 9-35

Toppersum Sept 19

Resident Falconer

University Toronto

arrive fifth october

telegraph whether above

Toronto possible

Benzinger Americans

Rotterdam